Oregon's Sentinels

Oregon's surviving coastal lighthouses are visible, accessible links to the past—monuments to Oregon's maritime heritage. Although unoccupied by resident light keepers since the advent of modern technology, some of the unique, classic lighthouse structures remain as much a part of Oregon's rugged coastal landscape as any land form or offshore monolith. Built on prominent headlands or near major estuaries supporting maritime activity, most of these stations were established by the U.S. Lighthouse Board between 1870 and 1896, with design and construction aid provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ultimately, the U.S. Coast Guard became the caretaker of the properties and keeper of the lights.

After installing automated beacons in the 1960s, the Coast Guard began transferring its lighthouse holdings to other government agencies. The transfers prompted vigorous restoration efforts to preserve the predominantly brick towers and frame dwellings that once sheltered the light keepers. All nine lighthouses have been named to the National Register of Historic Places, and seven are now open for public inspection and regularly scheduled summer tours.

Lighthouses You Can Tour

Aided by interpretive displays, historical accounts and a little imagination, you can now learn what life was like for the light keepers who lit the way for mariners off Oregon's perilous coastline. Climb to lantern or tower watch rooms and experience the panoramic sights once enjoyed by the light keepers. Hear the sounds of seabirds and the wind that accompanied their isolation.

Regularly scheduled tours are offered at the Cape Blanco, Heceta Head, Yaquina Bay and Yaquina Head lighthouses. The Cape Meares and Coquille River lighthouses also have public exhibit areas. Special group tours at Cape Meares may be arranged.

For information on hours and tours, call the State Park Information Center—1-800-551-6949—or other phone numbers in this publication.

Year-Round Recreation

Most of Oregon's lighthouse locations double as excellent wildlife viewpoints. A few lighthouses tower above sites listed among the state's premier wildlife viewing areas in the Oregon Wildlife Viewing Guide, a product of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Nearby attractions, including campgrounds open year-round at the following state parks (from north to south, see map on other side):
- Cape Lookout (10 miles south of Cape Meares)
- Devil's Lake (Lincoln City)
- Beverly Beach (4 miles north of Yaquina Head)
- South Beach (2 miles south of Yaquina Head)
- Cape Blanco (9 miles north of Port Orford)
- Humbug Mountain (6 miles south of Port Orford)
- Alfred A. Loeb (10 miles northeast of Brookings)
- Harris Beach (immediately north of Brookings)

Lighthouse Helpers

Interested in helping make Oregon's surviving coastal lighthouses more visitor friendly? You will be welcomed by any of these organizations:
- Oregon Chapter, U.S. Lighthouse Society
  Email: info@uslhs.org
  Web: www.oregon.uslhs.org
- Yaquina Lights, Inc., Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses
  P.O. Box 410, Newport, OR 97365
  Phone: 541-574-3129
  www.yaquinalights.org
- Friends of Cape Meares Lighthouse and Wildlife Preserve
  P.O. Box 21, Bandon, OR 97411
  Phone: 541-332-0248
  www.capemeareslighthouse.org
- Coquille River Lighthouse Keepers Foundation Inc.
  P.O. Box 25, Bandon, OR 97411
  www.lighthousekeepers.com
- Oregon State Parks Trust (lighthouse campaign)
  2510 SW River Parkway, Portland, OR 97201
  Phone: 1-800-497-2757
  www.oregonstateparkstrust.org
Ferrelo
OPRD, local Native American tribes and the Friends of Cape Blanco. Call 541-756-0100 (BLM) or 541-332-6774 for more information. Open April-October, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Cape Visitor services and tours cooperatively managed by BLM, and lumber industry. Clifftop location is 245 feet above ocean; conical tower rises 59 feet. Automated equipment installed by U.S. Coast Guard in 1980. Stands above highly rated wildlife viewing area.

Are Open Year-Round

Cape Blanco Lighthouse
- Day-Use Fee
- Reservations
- Year-Round
- Open

Port Orford
- Campground
- Lighthouse

Coquille River Lighthouse
- In Bullards Beach State Park, 2 miles north of Bandon on the north bank of Coquille River. Commissioned in 1896 to guide mariners of service, earlier structures were built on site in 1866 and 1908, both succumbing to weather and erosion. Listen for unique fog horn. Not open to public, but an overlook ¼ mile south of the Sunset Bay tower illuminated in 1934. Although newest in terms

Coos Bay
- Campground
- Lighthouse

Cape Arago Lighthouse
- 12 miles southwest of cities of North Bend and Coos Bay off U.S. 101. Stands 100 feet above ocean on an islet just off Gregory Point. Light atop 44-foot-high 12 miles north of Florence. On west side of 1,000-foot-high Heceta Head, adjacent to Umpqua Lighthouse State Park. An earlier structure, commissioned on north spit of river in 1857, was the first lighthouse

Cape Foulweather
- 6 miles south of Reedsport above entrance to Winchester Bay and Umpqua River Lighthouse

Heceta Head Lighthouse; light also illuminated in 1894. Lens emits distinctive red and white automated flashes. Structure
terminated on Oregon coast. It fell into the river in 1861 after sand eroded

Yaquina Bay
- Lighthouse

Cape Foulweather
- 205 feet above ocean. Light at top of 56-foot tower illuminated in 1894; automated beacon, seen 21 miles from land, rated... 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday-Monday during March, April and October. Year-round group tours offered; call 541-547-3416.

Waldport
- Lighthouse

Heceta Head
- 12 miles north of Newport. On south side of the Yaquina Bay and Yaquina Bay Lighthouse

Yaquina Head Lighthouse
- In Yaquina (Yah-kwih-nah) Bay State Recreation Site on U.S. 101 at north end of the Yaquina Bay bridge in Newport. Second oldest standing lighthouse structure on Oregon coast. In original service only from 1871 to 1874 before the commissioning of the brighter Yaquina Head Light

Cape Kiwanda
- Loop

Netarts Bay
- Trail

Tillamook Head
- 133 feet above sea level with 62-foot-high tower on basalt rock islet. Exposure to storm waves led to nickname “T errible Tilly.” Commissioned

Astoria
- Lighthouse

1.2 miles seaward off Tillamook Head south of Seaside. Stands